

**I claim:**

1. A bat, comprising:
  - a metal handle portion having a barrel receiving end and a knob end;
  - a wood barrel portion having a hitting portion and a fitting portion, wherein said fitting portion fits within said barrel receiving end of said metal handle;
  - a means for connecting the metal handle portion to said wood barrel portion, thereby creating a seam at the intersection of said metal handle portion and said wood barrel portion;
  - and
  - an exterior sleeve being an elongated tube having a top opening and a bottom opening, said exterior sleeve fitting over the bat such that said top opening is in contact with said wood barrel portion and said bottom opening is in contact with said metal handle portion and said seam is about centered in said exterior sleeve.
2. The bat according to claim 1, wherein an interior surface of said exterior sleeve approximates the exterior surface of the bat at said seam.
3. The bat according to claim 2, wherein said interior surface is generally hour-glass shaped.
4. The bat according to claim 1, wherein said exterior sleeve is made of a hard rubber.
5. The bat according to claim 1, wherein said exterior sleeve has a length within the range of about 1.5 inches to about 3.5 inches.
6. The bat according to claim 1, wherein said wood barrel portion has a transition between said hitting portion and said fitting portion, said transition being a smooth and gradual taper.
7. The bat according to claim 6, wherein said transition is about a 45 degree slope.
8. The bat according to claim 1, wherein said means for connecting comprises a hole through said metal handle portion and said wood barrel portion, traverse to a longitudinal axis of the

3 bat and in proximity to said seam, and a pin inserted through said hole having a length equal  
4 to about the length of said hole.

1 9. The bat according to claim 8, wherein said pin is a locking pin having a male component and  
2 a female component.

1 10. The bat according to claim 8, wherein said pin is a roll pin having a first end and a second  
2 end, and said means for connecting further comprises a means for securing said first end and  
3 said second end of said roll pin in said hole.

1 11. The bat according to claim 10, wherein said means for securing said first end and said second  
2 end of said roll pin is one or more fasteners selected from the group consisting of threaded  
3 cap screws, rivets, grommets, and washers, one said fastener pressure fit within a first side  
4 of said hole in contact with said first end of said roll pin and a second said fastener pressure  
5 fit within a second side of said hole in contact with said second end of said roll pin.

1 12. The bat according to claim 1, further comprising an interior sleeve being an elongated  
2 tapered tube having a length about equal to the length of the fitting portion of the wooden  
3 barrel portion, said interior sleeve positioned over said fitting portion of said wooden barrel  
4 portion within said barrel receiving portion of said metal handle portion.

1 13. The bat according to claim 12, wherein said interior sleeve is an about 40 decrometer gum  
2 rubber.

1 14. The bat according to claim 12, wherein said interior sleeve is made with a tacky gum rubber.

1 15. A bat, comprising:  
2 a metal handle portion having a barrel receiving end and a knob end;  
3 a wood barrel portion having a hitting portion and a fitting portion, wherein said  
4 fitting portion fits within said barrel receiving end of said metal handle;

5                   an interior sleeve being an elongated tapered tube having a length about equal to the  
6                   length of the fitting portion of the wooden barrel portion, said interior sleeve positioned over  
7                   said fitting portion of said wooden barrel portion; and

8                   a means for connecting the metal handle portion to said wood barrel portion wherein  
9                   said fitting portion with said interior sleeve is inserted within said barrel receiving end of  
10                  said metal handle portion, thereby creating a seam at the intersection of said metal handle  
11                  portion and said wood barrel portion.

1       16.     The bat according to claim 15, further comprising an exterior sleeve being an elongated tube  
2                   having a top opening and a bottom opening, said exterior sleeve fitting over the bat such that  
3                   said top opening is in contact with said wood barrel portion and said bottom opening is in  
4                   contact with said metal handle portion and said seam is about centered in said exterior sleeve.

1       17.     The bat according to claim 16, wherein an interior surface of said exterior sleeve  
2                   approximates the exterior surface of the bat at said seam.

1       18.     The bat according to claim 17, wherein said interior surface is generally hour-glass shaped.

1       19.     The bat according to claim 16, wherein said exterior sleeve is made of a hard rubber.

1       20.     The bat according to claim 16, wherein said exterior sleeve has a length within the range of  
                 about 1.5 inches to about 3.5 inches.

1       21.     The bat according to claim 15, wherein said means for connecting comprises a hole through  
2                   said metal handle portion, said wood barrel portion, and said internal sleeve, traverse to a  
3                   longitudinal axis of the bat and in proximity to said seam, and a pin inserted through said  
4                   hole having a length equal to about the length of said hole.

1       22.     The bat according to claim 21, wherein said pin is a locking pin having a male component  
2                   and a female component.

1 23. The bat according to claim 21, wherein said pin is a roll pin having a first end and a second  
2 end, and said means for connecting further comprises a means for securing said first end and  
3 said second end of said roll pin in said hole.

1 24. The bat according to claim 23, wherein said means for securing said first end and said second  
2 end of said roll pin is one or more fasteners selected from the group consisting of threaded  
3 cap screws, rivets, grommets, and washers, one said fastener pressure fit within a first side  
4 of said hole in contact with said first end of said roll pin and a second said fastener pressure  
5 fit within a second side of said hole in contact with said second end of said roll pin.

1 25. The bat according to claim 15, wherein said wood barrel portion has a transition between  
2 said hitting portion and said fitting portion, said transition being a smooth and gradual taper.

1 26. The bat according to claim 25, wherein said transition is about a 45 degree slope.

1 27. A bat, comprising:  
2 a metal handle portion having a barrel receiving end and a knob end;  
3 a wood barrel portion having a hitting portion and a fitting portion, wherein said  
4 fitting portion fits within said barrel receiving end of said metal handle; and  
5 a pin assembly for connecting the metal handle portion to said wood barrel portion  
6 wherein said fitting portion of said wood barrel portion is inserted within said barrel  
7 receiving end of said metal handle portion, thereby creating a seam at the intersection of said  
8 metal handle portion and said wood barrel portion, said pin assembly comprising a hole  
9 through said metal handle portion and said fitting portion of said wood barrel portion traverse  
10 to a longitudinal axis of the bat, a pin inserted in said hole, and a means for securing said pin  
11 in said hole.

1 28. The bat according to claim 27, wherein said pin is a locking pin having a male component  
2 and a female component.

1 29. The bat according to claim 27, wherein said pin is a roll pin having a first end and a second  
2 end, and said means for is one or more fasteners selected from the group consisting of  
3 threaded cap screws, rivets, grommets, and washers, one said fastener pressure fit within a  
4 first side of said hole in contact with said first end of said roll pin and a second said fastener  
5 pressure fit within a second side of said hole in contact with said second end of said roll pin.

1 30. A method for manufacturing a bat, comprising the steps of:

- 2 (a) sliding an interior sleeve over a fitting portion of a wood barrel portion;
- 3 (b) inserting said fitting portion with said interior sleeve of said wood barrel  
4 portion into a barrel receiving end of a metal handle portion, thereby creating a seam  
5 between said wood barrel portion and said metal handle portion of the bat;
- 6 (c) boring a hole through said metal handle portion, said interior sleeve and said  
7 fitting portion of said wood barrel portion, said hole being traverse to a longitudinal  
8 axis of the bat;
- 9 (d) inserting a pin into said hole; and
- 10 (e) securing said pin in said hole.

1 31. The method according to claim 30, further comprising the step of:

- 2 (f) sliding an exterior sleeve over the bat such that said seam of the bat is about  
3 centered in said exterior sleeve.

1 32. The method according to claim 30, wherein said pin is a locking pin having a male  
2 component and a female component such that said securing said pin of said step (e)  
3 comprises inserting said male component into said female component.

1 33. The method according to claim 30, wherein said pin is a roll pin such that said securing said  
2 pin of said step (e) comprises inserting a first fastener in a first end of said hole and inserting  
3 a second fastener in a second end of said hole, said fastener being selected from the group  
4 consisting of threaded cap screws, rivets, grommets, and washers.

1     34.     A method for manufacturing a bat, comprising the steps of:  
2             (a)     inserting a fitting portion of a wood barrel portion into a barrel receiving end  
3             of a metal handle portion, thereby creating a seam between said wood barrel portion  
4             and said metal handle portion of the bat;  
5             (b)     boring a hole through said metal handle portion and said fitting portion of  
6             said wood barrel portion, said hole being traverse to a longitudinal axis of the bat;  
7             (c)     inserting a pin into said hole; and  
8             (d)     securing said pin in said hole; and  
9             (e)     sliding an exterior sleeve over the bat such that said seam of the bat is about  
10            centered in said exterior sleeve.

1     35.     The method according to claim 34, further comprising the step of:  
2             (f)     sliding an interior sleeve over a fitting portion of a wood barrel portion prior  
3             to said step (a).

1     36.     The method according to claim 34, wherein said pin is a locking pin having a male  
2             component and a female component such that said securing said pin of said step (d)  
3             comprises inserting said male component into said female component.

1     37.     The method according to claim 34, wherein said pin is a roll pin such that said securing said  
2             pin of said step (d) comprises inserting a first fastener in a first end of said hole and inserting  
3             a second fastener in a second end of said hole, said fastener being selected from the group  
4             consisting of threaded cap screws, rivets, grommets, and washers.

1     38.     A method for manufacturing a bat, comprising the steps of:  
2             (a)     inserting a fitting portion of a wood barrel portion into a barrel receiving end  
3             of a metal handle portion, thereby creating a seam between said wood barrel portion  
4             and said metal handle portion of the bat;  
5             (b)     boring a hole through said metal handle portion and said fitting portion of

6                    said wood barrel portion, said hole being traverse to a longitudinal axis of the bat;  
7                    (c)     inserting a pin into said hole; and  
8                    (d)     securing said pin in said hole.

1     39.     The method according to claim 38, wherein said pin is a locking pin having a male  
2           component and a female component such that said securing said pin of said step (d)  
3           comprises inserting said male component into said female component.

1     40.     The method according to claim 38, wherein said pin is a roll pin such that said securing said  
2           pin of said step (d) comprises inserting a first fastener in a first end of said hole and inserting  
3           a second fastener in a second end of said hole, said fastener being selected from the group  
4           consisting of threaded cap screws, rivets, grommets, and washers.